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LETTER

FROM THE

Arch-Bishop of *PARIS*,

TO THE

Late King JAMES.

Great SIR,

AS the King is truly sensible of Your Majesty's firm adherence to his Interest, even with the loss of your Three Kingdoms, so he has redoubled his Care, and has left no stone unturned to restore Your Majesty to the said Kingdoms again; not only by endeavouring to reduce them, but by making War also against all the Confederates who opposed him in this his Undertaking. And although the King beyond hopes has not been successful in the first, though there was a very good prospect of it, yet he succeeded in the other, in having enlarged his Dominions very much, and by encreasing the same still by the Great Conquests he makes every Year, by the great and continual Victories he obtains over his Enemies from time to time; but all this is not such a satisfaction to his Generous Mind, as that would be, if he could restore Your Majesty to Your Throne again. This grieves the King, and sticks so much to his heart, that he does not value the smiles of Fortune, so long as it frowns upon Your Majesty. And as good Offices claim Gratitude, so the King not only Royally received Your Majesty into his Kingdom, but maintained and Cherished you too in that Grandeur to this very hour, besides his Kindness he shewed to that great number of your Subjects which he Maintained, and Employed. No less was expected from the Holy See, whom Your Majesty so highly Obliged when Reigning, who instead of out-doing the King's Kindness towards Your Majesty, stands now marked with Ingratitude. But now the King seeing his Kingdom Exhausted of Money, by the immense Charges he has been at, and his own Subjects Groaning under the Miseries that attend a War, and then considering the Effusion of Blood of so many Thousands of Christians, and that a Prince who will reap the Benefit of his Arms, must make Peace when he is the most Victorious. Therefore the King amidst his great Victories stretches out the Scepter of Peace, to all his Enemies; which as he has done at first, in particular to the Duke of *Savoy*, out of Compassion to withdraw him from his Ruine: So he does now in General to all the Confederate Princes. But These, as well as He, being pufft up with great Hopes, and ex-

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pecting the turn of Fortune, refuſe the King's fair Offers, and ſtand upon ſo high Terms, which amount even to the *Pyrenean* Treaty! A thing not to be expected from ſo Victorious a Prince, as our King is. Yet, the King being deſirous to ſee the Peace of *Europe* Eſtabliſhed, for the Reaſons above mentioned, is willing to grant them more ample Propoſals; ſuch as he does not doubt but would be accepted of by the Confederates; and he meets with no other Difficulty, than the *Re-inthroning* of Your Majeſty. Which as it is the Thing the King takes the moſt to Heart, ſo he has Laboured for it, more than for any other thing: But it ſeems Heav'n is againſt it, and will have it otherwiſe. It lyes therefore in your Majeſty's Power to remove that Obſtacle, and to further that ſo much wiſhed-for Peace; by following the Laudable Examples of that great Emperour *Charles* the Fifth, and *Caſimire* King of *Poland*; who quitting their Empire and Kingdoms, choſe rather to live a Religious, and Retired Life; a Life which the King was a commending much t'other day. A Life, I preſume to tell Your Majeſty the advantages of, by mentioning the dangers of t'other. Your Majeſty was ſeated upon a Precipice, and the more you are Elevated, the more dangerous will prove the Fall. In that Retirement you will be ſafe as it were upon a Plain, from whence you may look back upon the dangerous Rocks behind you. Deſcending from the Throne, you mount to the repoſe of a private life. And as there is nothing to be eſteemed a pleaſure, or a happy ſtate without a perfect ſafety; ſo your Your Majeſty will find, that you will then be more contented, more happy, and conſequently more high than you was before. There you may ſecure your ſelf from the dangers of a troubleſome Kingdom, and bewail the perilous condition of Worldlings, and purchaſe an Eternity of Joys. No other Earthly condition can equal that; 'Tis a Heaven upon Earth, ſeparating us from the reſt of the World, and contented with its own Tranquility, and Delights. Such a one it will be to Your Majeſty, if you embrace it voluntarily, and withdraw your heart from all worldly Cares and Creatures, and contemn a Worldly Diadem. Which that you may do, the Author of all good grant that Your Majeſty's Affections, Actions, Thoughts and Deſires may be ordered by him to that end, that they may begin and end in him, who is the Abyſs of Happineſs.

Great SIR,

Paris the 22d. of *June* 1694.

Your Majeſties Moſt Humble, and Moſt Obedient Servant,

FRANCIS,
Arch-Biſhop of *Paris.*

Superſcribed thus,
To His Moſt Excellent Majeſty James *the Second, K. of* Great Britain, *&c.*

LICENS'D, *July* 12. 1694.

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